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The financial progress of Bahrain during these years has been briefly as follows: five years of prosperity during which the State depended upon the diving industry, two lean years when the pearl market began to droop, two years of crisis during which the revenue did not cover the expenditure, one year of slight recovery followed by a sudden large increase of revenue from oil. It is likely that during the present year the revenue from oil alone will amount to more than double the total revenue of any previous year.

A detailed report on the revenue of these years is not necessary as it has been dealt with minutely in annual reports, but the accompanying figures show the annual income with explanations of any unusual rise or fall. The subject of this report is the last ten years, and it is not proposed in this report to deal with the future, but it may be stated that, in my opinion, the most urgent need for the State is to provide itself with a solid Reserve Fund which will assure it a regular income which can be depended upon even when oil begins to run dry. Unfortunately it is the nature of Arabs to be over-optimistic and to pay small heed to the future, so the need for building up this reserve will not be generally appreciated.

Year.	Customs Revenue. Rs	Other Revenue. Rs	Oil Royalty. Rs	Total. Rs	Remarks.
1344 ...	8,82,000 ...	1,80,000 ...	— ...	10,62,000 ...	
1345 ...	10,68,000 ...	3,37,000 ...	— ...	14,05,000 ...	
1346 ...	11,43,000 ...	97,000 ...	— ...	12,40,000 ...	
1347 ...	11,24,000 ...	91,000 ...	— ...	12,15,000 ...	
1348 ...	9,98,000 ...	1,36,000 ...	— ...	11,34,000 ...	
1349 ...	6,89,000 ...	1,28,000 ...	— ...	8,17,000 ...	
1350 ...	6,85,000 ...	1,19,000 ...	— ...	8,04,000 ...	
1351 ...	6,00,000 ...	84,000 ...	— ...	6,84,000 ...	
1352 ...	6,08,000 ...	89,000 ...	29,000 ...	7,26,000 ...	
1353 ...	6,57,000 ...	1,63,000 ...	67,000 ...	8,87,000 ...	
1354 ...	6,91,000 ...	83,000 ...	5,68,000 ...	13,42,000 ...	
1355 ...	8,74,000 ...	81,000 ...	6,92,000 ...	16,47,000 ...	

THE STATE POLICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

The Levy Corps.

In 1926 the armed forces of Bahrain consisted of a Levy Corps, a few Persian police who were originally enlisted by the Municipality, and a body of "Natars," armed watchmen who patrolled the town at night.

The Levy Corps provided a guard at the Political Agency and posts at Rafas and Sitra. The Levy Corps, which consisted of so-called Baluchis recruited in Muscat, was commanded by a British Officer seconded from the Indian Army, assisted by an Indian Officer and several Indian N.C.O.'s from Punjabi regiments. In 1926 the Levy Corps was commanded by Captain Geake, who had succeeded Captain Campbell. The Levy Corps was intended mainly as a defence force in case of any serious disturbance or an attack on Bahrain by the Dawasir Arabs, who once lived at Bodeya but left Bahrain in anger soon after Sheikh Hamed assumed control.

In the spring of 1926 it was decided that the Indian Army officer should be replaced by a British official, who would act as assistant Adviser and Commandant of the Levy Corps. Captain L. S. Parke was appointed in this capacity in place of Captain Geake, who returned to his regiment.

Political Disturbances.

There was a general feeling of nervousness and unrest in Bahrain in 1926. Many people were afraid that the Dawasir would make a descent on the coast and a series of armed attacks on Shia villages, organised by

disaffected members of the Ruling Family, were still fresh in the public mind. The present Ruler was not yet firmly established, many people were opposed to him, and in certain communities there was a feeling of bitter resentment against the new regime and the various reforms which had been introduced. Conditions were very different to what they are to-day: in the country few people would venture out unarmed at night, and in the towns there were frequent scares of armed attacks.

Bahrain

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

- 619
131 Bahrain is an independent sheikhdom, comprising a small group of islands at the entrance to the Gulf of Bahrain, between the Hasa coast of Saudi Arabia and the peninsula of Qatar. Famous since ancient times as the center of the Persian Gulf pearling industry, the islands have attained new prominence within recent years as a link in the chain of oil fields stretching from Qatar to central Iraq. The Sheikdom has had protective treaty relations with Great Britain since 1880, and the headquarters of the British Political Resident for the Persian Gulf area are established on Bahrain Island.
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131 The archipelago consists of 5 main islands, besides several small islets, which have an aggregate area of about 210 to 225 square miles. Bahrain, the principal island, is approximately 27 miles in length and 10
133 miles in width. A narrow belt of luxuriant date gardens, supported by abundant fresh-water springs and wells, rims the northern end of the island, but the remainder is mostly barren desert. Rocky hills rise to an elevation of about 450 feet along the central ridge, Jabal ad Dukhan, while sandy wastes, broken by salt marshes, stretch toward the south.
- 131 Muharraq, a horseshoe-shaped sandy island, with an area of 5 to 6 square miles, is second in size and in importance. It lies northeast of Bahrain, and is separated from
[441] the larger island by a narrow channel which is bridged by a 2-mile causeway, constructed in 1941. Chief among the other inhabited islands are Sitra and Nabbi Sâlih, offshore to the east, and Umm Na'san, to the west.

164 occurred intermittently in the past, chiefly in Manama and Muharraq. The islands are exposed to the introduction of the disease [144] from neighboring territories, but the enforcement of quarantine regulations has prevented its establishment for several decades.

Other Infections. Although a mild degree of louse infestation occurs among the inhabitants in some congested areas, louse-borne typhus is rarely, if ever, reported. Imported cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis, or Oriental sore, and filariasis are occasionally treated in the local medical institutions, but the insect vectors are not known to be present, and indigenous infections have not been recorded. Guinea worm infection is sometimes seen among persons from Iran, but it is not found in the resident population.

NUTRITIONAL DISEASES

146 The standards of nutrition have improved
361 materially in the last few years. Under-
511 nutrition is common, but serious defects are seen primarily among the inhabitants of outlying villages and the families of workers from the mainland. Poverty, traditional dietary customs and intestinal parasitism are contributory factors. Subclinical deficiencies in vitamin C are widespread, and scurvy is observed from time to time. Rickets is frequent among the children in the towns. Anemia is prevalent, and hemoglobin levels of 25 to 30 per cent are not unusual among the women.

SUMMARY

619 Bahrain is an independent sheikhdom
131 which consists of an archipelago of 5 main
282 islands situated in the Persian Gulf near the
315 coast of Arabia. It has long been famous as a pearl fishing center, and, since 1932, has enjoyed prosperity as an oil-producing area.
161 It has a heterogeneous population which
162 numbered 109,650 in 1950, including 18,471
795 foreigners. The people are predominantly of
144 mixed Arab and Persian origin, and about 96 per cent are Moslems.

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